

Pardons and Reprieves - 1726-1775
Total Number of Each Reason Given
All Classes

Reasons	Free Whites	Ser-vants	Convict Servants	Slaves	Free Mu-latto	Totals
Confessed or pleaded guilty	8	0	3	4	0	15
Confessed or confession						
to this crime and others	0	0	0	1	0	1
after whipping	0	0	2	0	0	2
confession extorted by whipping	0	0	0	1	0	1
might have been extorted —						
justices say	0	0	0	1	0	1
claimed innocence in spite of						
confession	0	0	1	0	0	1
apparently promised to reform if						
confessed	0	0	1	0	0	1
so magistrate would intercede	0	0	1	0	0	1
no other evidence against him	0	0	0	1	0	1
promised pardon for — justices say	0	0	1	0	0	1
justices say	0	0	0	1	0	1
master says	0	0	0	1	0	1
Object of mercy or compassion	8	0	1	21	1	31
justices say or recommend	0	0	0	4	0	4
Had “a Tolerable Character till this matter happened . . .”	0	0	0	1	0	1
Justices						
recommend mercy	1	0	0	3	0	4
recommend mercy — whites						
encouraged crime	0	0	0	1	0	1
ask clemency	0	0	0	1	0	1
Justices say						
inadequate evidence	1	0	0	0	0	1
slight evidence	0	0	0	1	0	1
evidence not sufficient to convict	0	0	0	1	0	1
evidence uncertain	0	0	0	1	0	1
evidence vague and uncertain	0	0	0	1	0	1
probably not guilty	0	0	0	1	0	1
accomplice was evidence	1	0	0	0	0	1
doubt about guilt	1	0	0	1	0	2
people want pardon	1	0	0	0	0	1
ignorant — not aware of penalty	1	0	0	1	0	2
earlier mistress instigated crime	0	0	0	1	0	1
induced to crime	0	0	1	0	0	1
first offense	0	0	0	2	0	2

Reasons	Free Whites	Ser-vants	Convict Servants	Slaves	Free Mu-latto	Totals
first offense “worth notice”	0	0	0	1	0	1
had always been orderly	0	0	0	1	0	1
good character	0	0	0	1	0	1
object of compassion	0	0	0	1	0	1
sorry	0	0	0	1	0	1
promises reform	0	0	0	1	0	1
recommend mercy	0	0	0	1	0	1
Inadequate evidence	0	0	0	1	0	1
only evidence another Negro	0	0	0	2	0	2
no circumstantial evidence of guilt	0	0	0	2	0	2
evidence uncertain	0	0	0	1	0	1
evidence a nine-year-old boy	0	0	0	1	0	1
one of the witnesses might not have told the whole truth	0	1	0	0	0	1
New evidence after conviction supported innocence	0	0	0	1	0	1
Justices and jurors say fit object of mercy	2	0	0	0	0	2
Justices of Queen Anne’s and oyer and terminer say he is sorry	2	0	0	0	0	2
Sorry — never intended to kill	2	0	0	0	0	2
Petitions of or letters from						
justices	1	0	0	2	0	3
sheriff	1	0	0	1	0	2
two respectable people	0	0	0	1	0	1
respectable people (two justices)	0	0	0	1	0	1
respectable people, including two justices	0	0	0	1	0	1
inhabitants or neighbors	9	0	0	2	0	11
inhabitants say he helped against French and Indians in 1755	1	0	0	0	0	1
“Sundry Gentlemen”— twenty-two gentlemen	0	0	0	1	0	1
“the Representation of several Persons”	0	0	0	1	0	1
several people	0	0	0	1	0	1
victim of attempted rape — not sure he was the culprit	0	0	0	1	0	1
master — no further information	0	0	1	2	0	3
who did the whipping	0	0	0	1	0	1
requested pardon	0	0	0	1	0	1
vouches for good character	0	0	0	1	0	1

Reasons	Free Whites	Ser-vants	Convict Servants	Slaves	Free Mu-latto	Totals
master says	0	0	0	2	0	2
simple-minded	0	0	1	0	0	1
induced to crime	0	0	1	0	0	1
first offense	0	0	0	1	0	1
behaved in past	0	0	0	1	0	1
doubts guilt	0	0	0	1	0	1
he's sorry	0	0	0	1	0	1
victim of crime	0	0	0	1	0	1
friend of victim	0	0	0	1	0	1
prosecutor	0	0	1	0	0	1
jurors						
evidence unclear	0	0	0	1	0	1
good reputation	0	0	0	1	0	1
preacher	0	0	0	2	0	2
convict	4	0	1	1	0	6
Victim did not die within a year and a day of the alleged poisoning	0	0	0	1	0	1
Robin says he tried to prevent murder	0	0	0	1	0	1
Former master says he's honest	0	0	1	0	0	1
No theft intended	0	1	0	0	0	1
Wife in danger	0	1	0	0	0	1
Had always been kind	1	0	0	0	0	1
Disordered in head	1	0	0	0	0	1
Probably out of his mind	1	0	0	0	0	1
Poor simple fellow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Under influence of older Negro	0	0	0	1	0	1
Not a notorious offender	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ill-nature of woman's master	1	0	0	0	0	1
Threats of overseer	0	0	1	0	0	1
First offense	2	0	0	1	0	3
Probably will reform	0	0	0	1	0	1
Doubt about guilt	1	0	1	0	0	2
Young	2	0	0	3	0	5
young — justices say	0	0	0	3	0	3
in teens — justices say	0	0	0	1	0	1
only a boy	0	0	0	1	0	1
only a lad	0	0	0	1	0	1
about twelve years old	0	0	0	1	0	1
under fourteen years old (12-14)	0	0	0	2	0	2

Reasons	Free Whites	Servants	Convict Servants	Slaves	Free Mulatto	Totals
only fourteen years old	0	0	0	2	0	2
fifteen or sixteen years old — influenced by father, Pompey	0	0	0	1	0	1
only sixteen years old at most	0	0	1	0	0	1
only sixteen years old	1	0	1	0	0	2
about sixteen years old	0	0	1	0	0	1
not quite eighteen	0	0	0	1	0	1
about twenty years old	0	0	0	1	0	1
only twenty years old	1	0	0	0	0	1
Valuable slave	0	0	0	2	0	2
Pregnant	2	0	0	1	0	3
Pregnant — reprieved till child born, then pardoned	0	0	0	1	0	1
“with Child but not then [at time of conviction] quickened”	0	0	1	0	0	1
Coroner’s jury says child still-born	1	0	0	0	0	1
Insufficient indictment — does not justify death penalty	0	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	60	3	23	123	1	210
No reasons given	24	4	3	69	0	100
Not included in totals — total number of each reason						
Turned evidence; not tried (Ogle promised pardon to any accomplice who would turn evidence); never tried	1	0	0	0	0	1
Turned evidence; never indicted	0	0	1	0	0	1
Turned evidence; never tried	1	0	0	1	0	2
Gave evidence against another; probably never tried	0	0	1	0	0	1
Never sentenced	0	0	1	0	0	1
Totals	2	0	3	1	0	6